



# Do You Have A Lost Pet?

## STEPS ON WHAT TO DO

- 1 Come into the shelter and fill out a lost pet report. You cannot do this over the phone—it must be in person during regular business hours. Be sure to attach a photo of your pet to your lost report.
- 2 Follow a staff member or volunteer through the lost animal kennels.
- 3 Check the Found Animals (Not in Shelter) binder at the Lost and Found counter.
- 4 Check the DOA binder at the Lost and Found counter.
- 5 Walk through the adoptable kennels if your animal has been lost for more than 4 days.
- 6 Come back the shelter a minimum of every 4 days to search for your pet, whether or not it is wearing any form of ID.
- 7 Post Lost flyers around your neighborhood (recommended: within a 4 block radius) and also distribute these flyers to local pet stores, veterinary hospitals, and grocery stores. If allowed, also post your flyer at local parks and dog parks.
- 8 If your animal is microchipped or licensed, make sure your contact information is up to date with the shelter. Also, make sure the manufacturer of your pet's microchip has your up to date contact information in their national registry.
- 9 Go door to door and speak with as many neighbors as possible so as to alert them to keep their eyes open for your pet.
- 10 If you have lost a cat, ask the customer service representatives to rent you a humane cat trap and ask about how it can help reunite you with your pet.
- 11 Do not give up hope! Lost animals have been united with their owners following the above methods as quickly as a few hours, to as long as a few years!

## TIPS/ADVICE:

- Do not rely too heavily on microchips or id tags to bring your pet home. Every once in a while microchip information will be outdated or difficult to trace, and tags will sometimes become misplaced.
- Good Samaritans sometimes keep lost animals in their homes without notifying the shelter or veterinary hospitals so it is very important to speak with all your neighbors.
- Cats are territorial animals. Chances are good that your lost cat is still nearby, but is possibly hiding or trapped in someone's basement/garage/shed.
- Spring-Summer is the mating season for cats, so if you have an unaltered cat and it goes missing between this time period chances are it is out searching for a mate. Use a humane cat trap baited with tuna or something equally as aromatically enticing to capture your pet.
- Even the friendliest dogs act aggressive or fearful when out of their element and confronted by a stranger. Some dogs have been known to wander for several miles before eventually stopping out of sheer exhaustion. It is only then that a stranger can approach a fearful dog. If you have not heard word of your lost dog, do not assume it has been stolen. Continue to post flyers further and further out of your neighborhood in order to rule out the possibility it is still wandering.
- If your cat has been missing for several weeks, it does not necessarily mean it has been stolen. Cats can go into hiding for several weeks before returning home.
- If you have an indoor/outdoor cat that has slowly stopped showing up to your house, talk to your neighbors to see if any of them have been setting food out for feral cats. Domestic cats sometimes find their way into a feral cat colony.
- Check other local animal shelters just in case someone found your pet but took it to a shelter closer to their own home.
- It might help to place an ad in your local daily newspaper announcing your lost pet. Also, search to see if anyone has announced any Found pets.
- Sometimes offering a Reward will help reunite you with your pet if you believe your pet has been stolen.
- Pets are considered property, and if you believe your pet has been stolen be sure to file a police report at your local police department or with the county sheriff.
- Cats and dogs are very scent oriented. Leave an article of clothing, litter box, or bed outside so as to reorient your pet back home.
- It is not uncommon for indoor cats to become lost inside of the house. Listen against the walls, check your vents and chimney, under couch cushions and behind your refrigerator or stove. These are all places lost cats have been discovered.
- If you have recently moved, distribute flyers in your old neighborhood. It is not unheard of for a cat to wander back to its old neighborhood. Especially if it was an indoor/outdoor cat for several years.
- Felines are more active during the evening. Search for your pet at dusk, when the majority of them come out to hunt for food.
- Enlist the help of a "Pet Detective" if you are financially able to. Many of these professionals have trained and certified dog trackers who can trace your pet's scent if it has not been missing for more than a few days.

## HELPFUL WEBSITES

### **Homeagain**

www.homeagain.com

1-888-HOME AGAIN (1-888-466-3242)

### **Avid**

www.avidmicrochip.com/

1-800-3396-2843, ext 4

### **InfoPet** (for Trovan chips)

www.infopet.biz/

1-952-890-2080

### **Pet Link** (National Registry for Microchips)

www.petlink.net/

1-877-PET LINK

### **Missing Pet Partnership**

(Non-profit organization dedicated to helping people locate their lost pets.

Referrals to pet detectives also listed.)

www.lostapet.org

## LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS AND RESCUES

### **Peninsula**

#### **Palo Alto Animal Services**

3281 E Bayshore Rd

Palo Alto, Ca 94303

**650/496-5971**

#### **San Francisco Animal Care and Control**

1200 15th Street

San Francisco, Ca 94103

**415/554-6364**

#### **Pets In Need** (Redwood City)

871 5th Avenue

Redwood City, Ca 94063

**650/367-1405**

### **North Bay**

#### **Marin Humane Society**

171 Bel Marin Keys Blvd

Novato, Ca 94949

**415/883-4621**

### **South Bay**

#### **San Jose Animal Care Center**

2750 Monterey Rd

San Jose, Ca 95111

**408/578-7297**

### **East Bay**

#### **Tri-City Animal Shelter**

1950 Stevenson Blvd

Fremont, Ca 94538

**510/535-5603**

#### **Oakland City Animal Shelter**

1101 29th Avenue

Oakland, Ca 94604

**510/535-5602**

#### **Hayward Animal Shelter**

16 Barnes Ct

Hayward, Ca 94544

**510/293-7200**